(c) and (d) The total oilseeds production estimated by the Ministry stands at 236.19 lakh tonnes for 2006-07 as compared to 279.79 lakh tonnes for 2005-06, showing a fall of 43.60 lakh tonnes, thereby causing a demand-supply gap. The demand-supply gap is met through imports of edible oils.

(e) To increase the production of oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation since 01-04-2004 in several States. Under the scheme, financial assistances are provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets and farmers training. To increase domestic availability, the Government resorts to changes in customs duty for import of edible oils.

Changes in the Seeds Bill, 2004

1961. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers have urged Government to follow the Parliamentary Panel's suggestions and effect necessary changes in the Seeds Bill, 2004 for ensuring farmers' rights;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the views of the Parliamentary Standing Committee;

(c) whether any changes have been incorporated in the proposed Bill;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, to which the Bill was referred by the Hon'ble Speaker for examination and report, has submitted its report on 12th October, 2006. In pursufsfsance of the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, a Cabinet Note has ben prepared and circulated to concerned Ministries and Departments for their views and will be

submitted to the Cabinet after views of all concerned are received. The Bill will be implemented after it is enacted into law. No representation has been received from any farmer regarding recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committe on Agriculture.

Sugarcane prices

1962. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the years the gap between the statutory minimum price fixed by the Central Government and the State advised price of the sugarcane given to sugarcane growers of certain States is widening;

(b) if so, in which way the Central Government propose to compensate the farmers of the rest of the country who are getting a lower price when compared with their counterparts;

(c) whether the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) would be asked to reorient itself and fix remunerative price to the sugarcane growing farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no loss to the sugarcane farmers who are being paid according to the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, therefore, the question of compensation such farmers dues not arise.

(c) to (e) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugar cane fixed by the Central Government is a Remunerative price. Hence, there is no need of asking the CACP to re-orient itself.

Production of pulses

1963. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the post Green Revolution period, the